

DSA Assessment Team Minutes

June 13, 2016

Present: Debbi Almand, Blake Whitaker, Byron Schlather, Raye Leigh Stone, Stefanie Baker, Mark Haven, Carol Binzer, Melissa Shehane, Jason Hindman (for Kari Keller), Jena Corley (for Judy Marrs), Judd Moody, Darby Roberts, Kelly Cox, Susan Fox Forrester, Katie Reed, Amanda Dyer, Paul Harwell, Anthony Schneider, Kerry Pickens, Cruz Rios, Marquis Gatewood, Eric Posada, and Jerry Smith

Introductions

We welcomed some new folks joining the Assessment Team:

- Byron Schlather with the Office of the Commandant
- Kerry Pickens with Department of Information Technology
- Marquis Gatewood with Multicultural Services

Department Presentations

Veterans Resource and Support Center

- Jerry presented on the assessment looking over the past four years they have been a department.
- Based on a couple different assessments, VRSC has learned that the demographics of student veterans has changed. More student veterans are graduate student, African American or Hispanic, and married, often with children.
- Results from assessments has also informed VRSC that students veterans are more stressed, have a stronger awareness of their academic advisor, and have connected more with other student veterans. Student veterans also report that Texas A&M is a vet-friendly campus.
- Based on this information and what they know about this population, VRSC will be starting new initiatives: Military Admissions for Integrative Transition and Transition Tool Kits. This is to address the overlapping transition student veterans often face.
- Based on assessment data, Jerry has been able to double fundraising efforts each year for the past four years.
- Some assessment lessons learned is to not with too many pigs, weigh the right pigs, get others to weigh the pig for you, and use weights from other pigs.

Student Counseling Service

- Jason Hindman presented on how they assess their practicum students and their program.
- They have changed their practicum students to only be doctoral level and now also have some master students.
- They have an extensive training program, which incorporates reflection and developing an awareness of self.
- SCS assessment practicum students in three main ways: selection process, performance evaluations, and case presentations.
- Additionally, practicum students evaluate the weekly training seminars, their supervisor, and the overall experience.

Discussion:

- Department Assessment Planning
 - Information about what projects departments have done through Student Life Studies was sent to departments a week or so ago.
 - All departments are asked to turn in their assessment plans for the 2016-2017 year by August 1.
 - If your department has a college completion grant or HIP, that should be included in your plan.
 - Your plan is everything your department will be doing, not just projects through Student Life Studies.
- Highlights from the University of Houston Summer Assessment Symposium
 - Student Life Studies staff, along with Kyle McCracken from Res Life and Sharon Mena in the Vice President's Office, attend this symposium on Friday, June 10. Some of the highlights were shared.
 - Sharing results – tell stakeholders and show students how you use the data.
 - Student learning in the co-curricular – lining learning outcomes up with what employers want from graduates.
 - Planned points with survey – being intentional in your outreach.
 - Program review – raised some discussion about having a manageable process.

- WEAVEonline
 - Findings were due June 1 – if you have not finished entering, please do so.
 - Student Life Studies will be reviewing assessment plans and sending feedback which can be incorporated into your plans.
 - The next due date is July 1 when action plans and analysis questions are due.
 - Every assessment plan needs at least 1 action plan, even if you met all your findings.
 - Action plans should be about how you will improve your program or service.
 - Your analysis questions should be discussing how you are using specific results and an update on previous action plans.

Announcements

- Thank you to Mark Haven for writing an article with Darby Roberts for the Assessment Update.
- Check out new reports on the SLS website at <http://studentlifestudies.tamu.edu/results>.
- NASPA Excellence Awards are now open and due November 1.
 - The website is <https://www.naspa.org/about/awards/excellence-awards>.
 - Consider applying and encourage others in your department to apply.
 - Applications require letters of recommendation so plan ahead for these.
 - Include assessment results and anything the application asks about.
- The next meeting is Monday, July 11 at 3:00 pm.